

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting of Thursday, January 7, 2010

1:15 p.m.

Cabinet Room, Department of Education
2nd Floor South Wing, Townsend Building

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Lori Hudson, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Kathleen Thomas and Juanita Wilson

Members Absent: Samtra Devard, Gretchen Pikus and Karen Schilling-Ross

Others Present: Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director; Pearl Carrington, Secretary; Judi Coffield, Policy Analyst for the State Board of Education, Deborah Stevens, DSEA; Gina Shuek, School Nurse [private citizen]; Janice Selekman, University of Delaware; Susan Hoffmann, DSNA/NASN; Elizabeth Light, DSNA, Sussex Tech HS; Linda Wolf, DOE; and Wayne Barton, DOE.

Opening:

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Christian and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2009. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

Ms. Gina Shuek, a school nurse in Delaware asked the Board to consider removing the current requirement in the School Nurse Standard Certificate for a Bachelors Degree in Nursing or School Nursing. Ms. Shuek felt the requirement was unnecessary due to the other requirements including the DE RN License and the three (3) years of supervised clinical experiences. She also felt that the BSN requirement could impact the pool of qualified school nurses.

III. DOE Report

Mr. Cruce, the DOE Associate Secretary for Administration and Innovation, and Chief of Staff, gave an overview/status report of the Federal Race To The Top: Application for Initial Funding application that the Department and the McKinsey Group are actively working on that will be/must be delivered by Tuesday January 19, 2010. The four major components of

the application are:

- Adopting internationally-benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- Recruiting, retaining and rewarding effective teachers and principals;
- Building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices; and
- Turning around the lowest-performing schools.

Mr. Cruce promised to follow up with the PSB on the progress of the application and the subsequent Federal feedback.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels presented Certificates of Accomplishment to PSB Members Marilyn Dollard and Wendy Murray who had recently received their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Renewal. Ms. Dollard and Ms. Hudson were heartily applauded by their gathered colleagues.
- **Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate:** Mr. Michels is researching on DEEDS the 60 day deadline between date of hire and district online application relative to the recently amended regulation. He has helped facilitate some changes in the DEEDS application for an Emergency Certificate, as per district Personnel Director's requests.
- **Regulation 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License:** Mr. Michels told the Board of the numerous contacts he has made relative to dissemination of changes in 1511 in anticipation of Final Approval by both Boards in January.
- **HB 300 and FOIA:** The proposed language in the tentative House Bill regarding Freedom of Information Act procedures is in alignment with the recently approved PSB FOIA: Access to Public Information document.
- **School Leadership Regulation Work** – Mr. Michels attended the School Leader Certification Workgroup meeting on December 14. This committee is comprised of faculty from Delaware Institutions of Higher Education who provide administrative graduate level coursework, current practicing principals, DASL, DOE staff and Mr. Michels. Mr. Michels has recently been working on drafting amended language in the 3 administrative Standard Certificates. One of the thoughts by this work group has been to draft two certificates in lieu of regulation **1591 School Principal and Assistant Principal**. The initial certificate would be titled **Provisional School Principal and Assistant Principal** and would be valid for 3 years. A minimum of 2 satisfactory Summative Evaluations would be the basis to award a Standard Certificate titled **Permanent School Principal and Assistant Principal**. The work group is continuing national research and will be convening again in about a month.
- **1598 Teacher Leader Standards:** Upon presentation to the DOE Cabinet by Mr. Michels, the Cabinet's reaction was that the PSB could consider moving forward with the regulation. Drafting a Standard Certificate in this area would, however, require considerably more

serious conversations. Apparently Governor Markell has ideas about the roles and responsibilities of Teacher Leaders as per his Education Reform Agenda that need to be defined prior to considering a certification regulation. The DOE shared with Mr. Michels that the Department does not feel that this Standard Certificate is a priority at this juncture. Mr. Cruce of the DOE has promised to have a conversation with Mr. Michels in the near future regarding teacher leaders.

- **School Library Media Specialist Program: University of Delaware:** At the request of the PSB following a request of the Department, Mr. Michels sent a letter to Dr. Harker, UD President, and related University faculty encouraging the University's College of Education and Public Policy to continue the School Library Media Specialist Program. The UD's masters level program is the solitary School Library Media Specialist program in the State that would provide the necessary education for certification. Days ago, the announcement was made by UD program will be continued. The Board was pleased to hear the news.

V. Action Items

A. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License

After a brief commentary by Mr. Michels which included that he had received no written comments on this regulation, Mr. Kohan moved and Dr. Greaves seconded a motion for Final Approval of **1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License**. The motion Carried. Mr. Michels sincerely thanked the Board for their persistence and commitment to see this significantly amended regulation through to the Final Approval.

B. 1560 Art Teacher

C. 1563 Music Teacher

D. 1564 Physical Education Teacher

These three Standard Certificates had yet to be amended into the relatively recently revised Standard Certificate formats, as their 5 year review cycle is just now being reached. There is no change in these certificates' requirements, only the foreshortening of Sections and the referencing of regulation **1505 Standard Certificate** as has been done in the majority of other curricular certifications. Ms. Hudson moved and Ms. Murray seconded a motion to Publish these three regulations. The motion passed.

VI. Discussion

A. 1582 School Nurse

Mr. Michels stated that he has done some further research on the School Nurse Bachelors degree requirement. This information had been forwarded to Members. Mr. Michels recognized Ms. Linda Wolf, the DOE Director of School Support Services, who has direct responsibility for Delaware school nurses. Mr. Michels had previously had conversations with Ms. Wolfe and Ms. Thomas and subsequently allotted about ten minutes for her to present her case to the Board for the retention of a Bachelors Degree in Nursing; BSN. At that point, Ms. Wolfe deferred to several of her colleagues.

Presentations were made by Janice Selekmán DSNc, RN, NCSN, Professor, University of Delaware; Susan Hoffman, MSN, RN, NCSN.

These professionals presented their case to retain the Bachelors in Nursing (BSN) for the School Nurse Standard Certificate, both verbally and via accompanying documentation. Considerable conversation, questions and answers followed between and amongst the Board and the presenters. Topics of skills and knowledge, community outreach, academic prowess and research, and school nurse responsibilities were broached. It appeared to the PSB Executive Director that Board Members were divided on the issue of educational requirements for school nurses. Mr. Michels will do further research anticipated to be presented during the February 4, 2010 PSB meeting during the Discussion item.

B. 1503 Educator Mentoring

Mr. Michels stated that he had met with Mr. Cruce, Dr. Barton and Mr. Jackson of the DOE to review the regulation. Mr. Michels shared with the Board a synopsis of changes in regulation 1503 which included the recent request of the Department to add language in the regulation for an employing authority the opportunity to develop and implement their own mentoring program, upon review by a broad-based committee and subsequent approval by the PSB and the DOE. This recent amendment was met favorably by the Board. Mr. Michels will request a DOE Cabinet review in the next few weeks, and then will work with Ms. Thomas to determine the potential for PSB Approval to Publish in February.

C. 1598 Teacher Leader Standards

Dr. Wayne Barton, Director of the DOE Office of Professional Accountability, talked briefly about his concept of teacher leaders. He stated that teacher leader positions are an important part of the Governor's Education Agenda. He also stated that the DOE Cabinet had previously reviewed some aspects of the qualities of teacher leaders. Dr. Barton felt that the work around a Standard Certificate is a broader discussion that must be held statewide and with a variety of constituents. Ms. Thomas recommended that at present we put a HOLD on drafts of this regulation. PSB Members were asked to query their colleagues on this topic.

VII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation.

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee had not met.

VIII. Other

The Board shared some diverse final thoughts of the evening regarding the School Nurse regulation.

IX. Public Comment

(None)

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Murray and seconded by Ms. Christian to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks.

The times designated on the agenda are approximate and are listed for administrative purposes only. The Professional Standards Board reserves the right, pursuant to Section 10004(e) of the Freedom of Information Act, to hear any matter out of its order during the meeting.